

**CLAIMS**

1. Liquid detergents containing hydroxy mixed ethers.
2. Detergents as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that they contain hydroxy mixed ethers corresponding to formula (I):

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- 10 in which R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl and/or alkenyl group containing 1 to 22 carbon atoms and n is a number of 1 to 50, with the proviso that the total number of carbon atoms in the
- 15 substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6.

3. Detergents as claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that they contain hydroxy mixed ethers in quantities of 1 to 60% by weight, based on the detergents.

4. Detergents as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized
- 20 in that they also contain anionic, nonionic, cationic and/or amphoteric or zwitterionic co-surfactants.

5. Detergents as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that they contain co-surfactants selected from the group consisting of alkyl benzenesulfonates, alkyl sulfates, soaps, alkanesulfonates, paraffin
- 25 sulfonates, methyl ester sulfonates, fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alkoxylated fatty acid lower alkyl esters, alkyl oligoglucosides, esterquats and betaines.

6. Detergents as claimed in claims 4 and/or 5, characterized in that they contain the co-surfactants in quantities of 1 to 40% by weight.

- 30 7. Detergents as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that they additionally contain typical auxiliaries and additives.

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8. Detergents as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that they contain the additional auxiliaries and additives in quantities of 1 to 25% by weight.
9. Detergents as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that they have a water content of 25 to 75% by weight.
- 5 10. The use of hydroxy mixed ethers as nonionic surfactants for the production of liquid detergents.

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